

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) A bypass conduit for use in a wall of a heart, comprising:

a hollow conduit having an interior and an exterior and adapted to be positioned in the heart wall between the coronary artery and a chamber in the heart, wherein the conduit has an attachment mechanism on at least one end adapted to anchor the conduit in place.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the conduit is expanded using an inflatable balloon.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the chamber is the left ventricle.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the attachment mechanism is selected from the group consisting of hooks, barbs, flanges, collars, suture holes, and expandable legs.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the attachment mechanism is adapted to anchor the conduit in the heart wall.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the attachment mechanism is adapted to anchor the conduit in the coronary artery.

22. (Previously Presented) A bypass conduit for use in a wall of a heart, comprising:

a hollow conduit having a plurality of circular rings, an interior, and an exterior and adapted to be positioned in the heart wall between the coronary artery and a chamber in the heart, wherein the conduit has an attachment mechanism on at least one end adapted to anchor the conduit in place.

23. (Previously Presented) A conduit for placing a coronary vessel of a patient's heart in communication with a heart chamber, the conduit comprising:

 a tubular element including first and second portions having different cross-sectional sizes, the tubular element having a bore defining a blood flow path;

 wherein the cross-section of the first portion of the tubular element is larger than the cross-section of the second portion of the tubular element such that the tubular element is generally funnel-shaped; and

 wherein the first and second portions of the tubular element are generally aligned and the bore defines a generally straight blood flow path.

24. (Previously Presented) A conduit for placing a coronary vessel of a patient's heart in communication with a heart chamber, the conduit comprising:

 a tubular element configured to positioned in the wall of a patient's heart, the tubular element including first and second ends and a bore defining a blood flow path;

 and

 a vessel supporting mechanism carried by the tubular element, the vessel supporting mechanism being positioned on the conduit so as to contact and support the wall of a coronary vessel when the conduit is positioned in the heart wall.

25. (Previously Presented) The conduit of claim 24, wherein the tubular element is a rigid, solid walled structure.

26. (New) A method for placing a conduit in the wall of a patient's heart, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) providing a support member and a conduit;
- (b) passing the support member and the conduit through an exterior wall of a coronary vessel and through the wall of a patient's heart;
- (c) positioning the conduit within the wall of the heart; and
- (d) removing the support member from the wall of the heart.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein step (b) is carried out by passing a sharpened end of the support member through the wall of the heart.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein step (b) is carried out by first forming an opening extending at least partially through the wall of the heart and then passing the support member through the opening.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the coronary vessel is a coronary artery and the heart chamber is the left ventricle.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the conduit is passed through a wall of a coronary vessel and through the wall of the heart into a heart chamber containing oxygenated blood, and the conduit is positioned so as to place the heart chamber in communication with the interior of the coronary vessel.